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Technology Center 2100

Patent Application

Inventor: Robert Daniel Maher, et al.

Case: NR-2

Serial No.: 09/598,631

Group Art Unit: 2132

Filed: June 21, 2000

Examiner: Lemma, Samson B

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING DENIAL OF
SERVICE ATTACKS**

**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313**

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SIR:

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action of August 2, 2004, Applicant would request reconsideration in view of the following remarks:

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the rejected subject matter in view of the following remarks:

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Kloth (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,034) in view of Lorrain et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,512).

Both Kloth and Lorrain disclose network systems for examining network traffic and providing quality of service for that network traffic based on the priority of that traffic, one type of priority being real time traffic over non-real time traffic. Both Kloth and Lorrain discuss network loads and the desire to smooth loads on network equipment by allowing high priority traffic to pass while slowing lesser priority traffic, or even buffering that traffic in Kloth.

The present invention, on the other hand, is designed to prevent denial of service attacks which can disrupt network service by flooding network equipment with bogus or malicious traffic. The present invention accomplishes this by validating traffic that passes through it. Validated traffic is traffic that has been determined by the present invention to be correctly formatted for the type of traffic it claims to be and to be associated with a validated traffic flow, one whose source is known to the present invention (pg. 17, lines 10-20). Validated traffic can be either real-time traffic or non-real time traffic. Real time traffic is traffic that is associated with an application that depends on continuous, prompt and orderly transmission to operate, such as